



# TOPIC: SOCIAL ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IN INDIA

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## ABSTRACT:

Certain adverse situations that may have harmful consequences may affect societies. They may hinder the normal functioning of the society. Such harmful situations are known as social problems. These problems arise because every society has certain norms and values. When these norms and values are violated, they result in social problems. They are problems because such deviation of norms and values are dysfunctional in the society. Some of the examples of social problems are drug addiction, terrorism, youth unrest, juvenile delinquency, corruption, offences against women, environmental degradation, etc. However, not all violations of social norms and values result in social problems. For example, when a person sports an unusual hairstyle it does not become a social problem. Similarly, social problem may vary with time and over space. Smoking was not considered a social problem earlier. At present with the rising health consciousness, smoking is considered a major social problem. Similarly, sati was not considered as a problem in the medieval India. However, in modern India it is seen as a social problem. A society may consider a certain practice as a social problem where as it may not be a problem in another society. This is because the norms and values are not the same in all the societies. Divorce may be seen as a serious problem in some societies, but it may not be so in other societies. However, there are certain practices that are considered harmful in all societies viz. murder, terrorism, rape, etc. The current examination utilizes content investigation for the investigation of crowd lynching. The information have been gathered from lynching influenced districts of the country through different Newspapers (Hindustan Times, The Hindu, The Indian Express and The Times of India and so forth, Delhi Edition) and month to month magazines (India Today and Economic Political Weekly and so on) The examination has tracked down that the instances of lynching are submitted against minorities and Dalit's because of doubt of meat devouring, cow butchering, cleaning of dead cows kid lifting, and burglary. The examination additionally shows that the greater part of instances of horde lynching are submitted because of phony news, bits of gossip and disdain addresses which are flowed via online media stages.

**KEYWORDS:** Social Problems. Divorce. murder, terrorism, rape, corruption, offences against women, environmental degradation,

## INTRODUCTION;

Definition Many scholars have tried to define social problem but it is difficult to arrive at a commonly accepted definition. According to Fuller and Myers, a social problem is "a condition which is defined by a considerable number of persons as a deviation from some social norms which they cherish". Similarly, Merton and Nisbet define social problem as "a way of behavior that is regarded by a substantial part of society as being in violation of one or more generally accepted or approved norms". However, these two definitions are applicable for certain

social problems like corruption, drug addiction and communalism. It is not applicable to problems like population explosion. Further, some problems are caused not by the abnormal and deviant behaviour of the individuals but by the normal and accepted behaviour. For example, the degradation of the soil in certain regions of Punjab and Haryana is being caused by the accepted methods of farming. Therefore, for Carr, "a social problem exists whenever we become conscious of a difficulty, a gap between our preference and the reality".

India arose as an autonomous country state on fifteenth August 1947, after a long battle against the British frontier burden. The nation is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic with a parliamentary arrangement of government. However, India has shown gigantic development in all circles of public life in the years after freedom, yet numerous issues plague the ordinary public activity; the issues, numerous a period, are interrelated. Neediness, Population, Pollution, Illiteracy, Corruption, Inequality, Gender segregation, Terrorism, Communalism, Lack of Infrastructure, Unemployment, Regionalism, Casteism, Alcoholism, Drugs Abuse, Violence against Women are the significant ones.

### Concept of Social Problems: Characteristics of Social Problems

On the basis of the above discussion and definitions, following characteristics of social problems can be deduced:

- 1) All social problems are situations that have harmful consequences for the society.
- 2) All social problems are deviations from the ideal situation.
- 3) Social problems are caused by many factors.
- 4) All these factors are social in origin.
- 5) Social problems are interrelated.
- 6) Social problems affect every individuals of the society.
- 7) Social problems affect different individuals differently.

Contemporary Indian culture is spotted with various issues that are marked as friendly issues. Some of them are age-old, and some are of late beginning that have ejected attributable to the change in worldwide socio-political request. A social issue, as a general rule, is the condition which isn't idea land disturbs the equilibrium of a general public. A word reference of social science characterizes social issues as, "any unfortunate condition or circumstance that is decided by a persuasive number of people inside a local area to be insufferable and to require bunch activity toward useful change". Another broadly utilized definition determines that "no condition, regardless of how emotional or stunning to another person, is a social issue except if and until the upsides of a significant number of individuals characterize it as an issue".

### Some of the other definitions of social problems given by sociologists are:

- 1. Horton and Leslie:** It is normal characterized as the condition which numerous individuals think about unwanted and wish to address.
- 2. Lindbergh:** It is any degenerate conduct an opposed way of such an extent that it surpasses the resilience furthest reaches of the local area.
- 3. L.K. Straight to the point:** It is characterized as any trouble of rowdiness of a genuinely enormous number of people which we wish to eliminate or address.
- 4. Fuller and Mayer:** A social issue begins with the enlivening of individuals in a given territory, with the acknowledgment of certain loved qualities that are compromised by the conditions which have gotten intense.

Emergence of Sociology as a Discipline: Human science has arisen as a discipline which methodically contemplates social conduct or society, including its starting points, advancement, association, organizations, and establishments and issues. The American Sociological Association characterizes Sociology as "the investigation of public activity, social change, and the social causes and outcomes of human conduct". To a humanist, a social issue is an issue that contrarily influences an individual's condition of being in a general public.

To comprehend social issues, sociologists look "from outside" at people as opposed to looking them "from inside", to analyze the considerations, cause, and activity. This is because of the way that for the social scientist,

numerous issues that show up as close to home are really friendly issues, since individual involvement with somehow is affected by friendly powers. Noticeable American Humanist C. Wright Mills utilizes the expression "sociological creative mind" to allude to this capacity to see the effect of social powers on people, particularly on their private lives.

He contends that individuals should see how superfluous components add to singular circumstances. To get this, we should apply sociological creative mind—the capacity to look past the person as the solitary purpose of activity and perceive what society means for an individual's result. Plants noticed that this large scale (huge scope) perspective assists us with seeing how history and cultural associations impact individuals.

We frequently see social issues from our own perspectives, deciphering activities at face esteem, for example a miniature (limited scope) see. Utilizing just a miniature perspective is averse to a comprehensive and certifiable comprehension of the world. It can adversely impact our comprehension of occasions while applying sociological creative mind, and taking into account that an individual may act and react due to various reasons.

As Mills contended, the objective of social science is to move past our own discernments and toward a sociological creative mind. Without associating what we think about society to the individual, we risk wrongly setting fault and confounding the manner in which we decipher occasions.

The shift then, at that point is to take a gander at social issues corresponding to different parts of society like economy, culture, or religion. The sociological creative mind is animated by an ability to see the social world according to the viewpoint of others. It includes moving from contemplating the individual and his issues, and zeroing in on friendly, monetary, and chronicled conditions that produce the issue. Sociological investigation isn't equivalent to our ordinary "good judgment."

**Types of Social Problems:** Social problems are of diverse nature.

**However, these diverse social problems can be broadly grouped under four categories:**

1. Financial Factors:

These issues emerge because of awkwardness in financial appropriation like neediness, joblessness, and so forth.

2. Social Factors: Issues that emerge from set up convictions, values, customs, laws, and dialects of a country or society fall under this class like endowment, youngster marriage, adolescent misconduct, and so on

3. Organic Factors: The issues that emerge because of normal disasters, irresistible sicknesses, starvation, and so forth

4. Mental elements: Issues that emerge from sick mental and neurological wellbeing fall under this classification.

Case (1964) has enumerated four types of social problems on the basis of their origin:

1. Problems that are established in some part of the actual climate.

2. Problems that are innate in the nature or dispersion of the populace in question.

3. Problems that outcome from helpless social association.

4. Problems that advance from a contention of social qualities inside the general public.

Fuller and Myers have enlisted three types of problems:

1. Physical Problems: However, these are issues for the general public, yet their causes are not founded on esteem clashes, for instance, floods and starvations;

2. Ameliorative Problems: There is agreement about the impacts of these issues however there are contrasts relating to their answers, for instance, wrongdoing, destitution, and AIDS; and

3. Moral Problems: There is no agreement relating to the nature or reasons for these issues, for instance, betting, liquor addiction, illicit drug use, and separation.

**Characteristics of Social Problems:** Social problems are serious to the extent that they undesirably alter the existing order of the society.

**On the basis of the aforesaid discussion, we can identify the following characteristics of social problems:**

1. All friendly issues are circumstances which have harmful ramifications for society.

2. All friendly issues are deviations from the "best" circumstance.

3. All friendly issues have some normal premise of beginning.
4. All friendly issues are social and political in beginning.
5. All friendly issues are brought about by obsessive social conditions.
6. All friendly issues are interconnected.
7. All friendly issues are social in their outcomes—they influence all areas of society.
8. The obligation regarding social issues is social—they require an aggregate methodology for their answer.
9. Social issues happen in all social orders.

A social issue doesn't exist for a general public except if it is perceived by that society to exist. In not monitoring a social issue, a general public doesn't see it, address it, examine it, or do anything for annihilating it. So the significant point is, ID of a specific issue by the general public as an issue. History changes the meaning of social issues. The issues that society considered major in the past are frequently not so significant in the present.

For instance, at one point in time a significant worry in the United States was horse robbery—clearly, this is as of now not an issue. For instance, sati, kid work, ignorance, youngster marriage, subjection, and strict change were not viewed as an illness in Indian history. Yet, today, these are unwanted in contemporary India.

**Causes of Social Problems:** The causes of social problems may be three-fold but cannot be treated in isolation:

1. Individual
2. Cultural
3. Structural.

The social shades of malice that are tormenting our general public today could barely be listed. They are truly uncountable in the genuine feeling of the attestation.

Conspicuous among them are-adolescent misconduct; kid misuse; heightening wrongdoing waves like equipped theft; pyro-crime; misrepresentation; drug selling; cash dealing; pay off and defilement; misappropriation of public assets; understudy and youth distress; social savagery; strict bigotry; limit questions; unmistakable contemptibility; political decision fixing; overthrows and counter upsets; absence of obligation to obligation; assessment acts of neglect; foul and gross indiscipline; result racketeering; slight for different species; net financial imbalance; neediness; sickness and craving; far reaching ignorance; absence of productive business openings; open treachery; showy spending; maltreatment of power; accumulating of fundamental items; cheating and abuse of the majority; segregation and ethnic patriotism; exorbitant desire; cultism; absence of acknowledgment of human potential; restricted schooling bringing about poorly educated residents; common conflicts; starvation; dry spell and unchecked desertification; and illegal exploitation and youngster work.

**Factors that Result in Social Problems:**

James H. Reinhardt (1952) has recounted three factors in the development of social problems:

1. **Differentiation and Multiplication of Interests and Functions:** The rule that the more prominent the quantity of parts in a machine or an organic entity, the more noteworthy the likelihood of maladjustment among the parts holds useful for human social orders as well, where there is expanded freedom for the impact of interests of different people, gatherings, foundations, and frameworks. Distance, public mobs, and political violations are the social issues which is the aftereffect of the conflict of interests of various ranks and classes.
2. **Accelerating Frequency of Social Change or Growth of Civilisation:** This has been made conceivable because of the augmentation of logical and mechanical developments. For instance, the creation of machines has obliterated numerous old types of business bringing about the relocation of millions of individuals, and has led to class clashes. It is consequently the underlying and practical maladjustments emerging from progressive innovations which make numerous social issues.
3. **Man's Developed Insight to Make a Scientific Analysis:** Since the time man has fostered his social understanding of investigating the working of nature, issues which were once viewed as basic are currently seen as the aftereffect of different sorts of regular conditions which impact man and society.

**Reactions to Social Problems:**

Different people react differently to social problems

The differences may be explained in terms of the following four factors:

1. An Attitude of Unconcern:

Numerous individuals and the State on occasion, stay apathetic regarding an issue, imagining that it doesn't influence them. On occasion, their own individual issues like family strains and occupation pressures keep them so connected with that they don't figure out how to be keen on what influences others. It is just when their own advantages are included that they become upset and begin looking into the issue. The lack of interest and detachment of the State just add to the issue further.

2. Fatalism: A few group are fatalistic to such an extent that they characteristic everything to fate. Issues like destitution and joblessness are additionally clarified as far as mishap and past karma. They, subsequently, experience the incident unobtrusively and hang tight for some supernatural occurrence to occur.

3. Vested Interests: A few group look into the current issues since they remain to acquire inasmuch as the issue exists. Inspired without help from anyone else interest, they depict the issue as insoluble and talk about its destruction as an exercise in futility.

4. Absence of Expert Knowledge: A few group, however profoundly worried about the issue, don't look into it accepting that its answer is unimaginable except if individuals change their mentalities and qualities. As the progressions should be started by an adjustment of viewpoint, they stay uninterested about discovering elective prospects of treatment. Settlement is one such issue in our general public.

Solving Social Problems: Albeit C. Wright Mills recognized the connection between an individual difficulty and a public issue over 50 years prior, less has been said about the change of an issue to an answer. Factories drives us the correct way by recognizing the connection between open issues and social foundations. By proceeding to utilize our sociological creative mind and perceiving the job of bigger social, social, and primary powers, we can recognize suitable measures to resolve these social issues.

We should think about vagrancy. It doesn't emerge out of puzzling or extraordinary conditions; it arises out of natural beneficial encounters. The departure of a task, the sickness of a relative, aggressive behavior at home, or separation could make a family more helpless to vagrancy. Without casual social help, an investment account, or reasonable and sufficient work and with the expanding cost of medical services and the absence of moderate lodging a family's financial and enthusiastic assets can rapidly be tapped out.

What might it take to forestall vagrancy in these circumstances? The appropriate responses are not situated in every individual or every family; rather, the drawn out arrangements are underlying arrangements like moderate medical care, bearable wages, and reasonable low-pay lodging. In the US, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed clearing social changes during his New Deal in 1935, and President Johnson proclaimed the War on Poverty in 1964. Arrangements require social activity as friendly approach, promotion, and advancement to resolve issues at their underlying or individual levels.

Social development may appear as an arrangement, a program, or backing that includes an untested or exceptional methodology. Advancement generally begins at the local area level; however, it can develop into a public or global program. The idea of "association lodging" was created by Millard and Linda Fuller in 1965, banding together those needing satisfactory asylum with local area volunteers to fabricate straightforward without interest houses. In India, ongoing drive 'Swachh Bharat', 'Advanced India', 'Make in India' and so forth are additionally exceptional social developments that can change Indian culture incredibly.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The chapter starts with an introduction to the social problems and then attempts to define what is a social problem. Based on it, the characteristics of social problems have been deduced and social problems in Indian context have been examined. Then an attempt has been made to classify social problems on the basis of causative and systemic factors. Social problems can be due to social, cultural, economic, political, legal, and ecological factors. Systemic factors leading to social problems can be due to social disorganization or due to the deviant behaviour of the individual. We have also learnt about the approaches to study social problems. Finally, some light has been thrown on the societal response to the social problems.

To a humanist, a social issue is an issue that contrarily influences an individual's condition of being in a general public. This is because of the way that for the social scientist, numerous issues that show up as close to home are really friendly issues, since individual involvement with somehow is affected by friendly powers. A social issue doesn't exist for a general public except if it is perceived by that society to exist. In not monitoring a social issue,

a general public doesn't see it, address it, examine it, or do anything for annihilating it. By proceeding to utilize our sociological creative mind and perceiving the job of bigger social, social, and primary powers, we can recognize suitable measures to resolve these social issues.

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